

Green Lodging News

November/December 2006

Heating, Ventilation, & Air Conditioning

Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) is the largest consumer of energy in the hospitality industry. Due to the significant amount of energy used by HVAC systems almost all facilities have the potential to achieve significant savings by improving

control operations and system efficiency. The following section offers some suggestions to improve your facilities efficiency.

1. Have your HVAC system inspected twice annually by a licensed HVAC contractor (usually at the beginning of the cooling season and the beginning of the heating season). An HVAC tune-up should do the following:

- replace air filters.
- clean heat transfer coils.
- inspect ducts and piping for leakage or missing insulation.
- make sure air flow is not obstructed.
- identify areas in facility that are unused

yet still being conditioned.

- check boiler or furnace for combustion efficiency and make adjustments if necessary.

2. Adjust temperature setpoints lower in the winter and higher in the summer. Changes of a couple degrees typically have no effect on comfort and significant effects on utility bills. Use larger setbacks during unoccupied times.

3. Use programmable thermostats or energy management systems (EMS) to automate HVAC control. Programmable thermostats are effective for individual-unit air conditioners and heaters

while an EMS works best with large central systems such as boilers and chillers.

4. Keep energy costs in mind when purchasing new equipment. Upgrade heating and cooling equipment after other energy upgrades have been implemented. This is because upgrades such as light replacements and envelope improvements could change the size requirements for the new HVAC system. Also, be sure equipment is sized correctly. Oversized equipment wastes energy and often leads to comfort issues.

For more information please visit the [Green Lodging Michigan](#) website and check out our [HVAC Information Guide](#).

Green Lodging News is a publication targeted toward Michigan's hospitality facilities. It is a service of the Energy Office, Michigan Dept. of Labor and Economic Growth. If you are interested in subscribing to the bimonthly newsletter, please contact dohertyr1@michigan.gov.

Green Tip of the Month

Vending machines cost \$200 to \$350 annually in electricity. Ask your vender operator to upgrade to Energy Star models which can reduce electricity use by 40%. Other things that can be done are:

- upgrade fluorescent advertising lights from T-12's to T-8's.
- install occupancy sensors which turn lights off and reduce cooling cycles when area is vacant.

Greening the Hospitality Industry 2007

- What: Green Meeting Industry Council Conference
- When: Feb. 6-8, 2007
- Where: Portland, Ore.

Leaders in the field will be on hand, sharing their insights on industry issues and environmentally responsible approaches to processes such as

- registration, site location, marketing, and exhibiting. Also, you'll be able to:
- meet experienced industry insiders who are shaping the future of green meeting planning.
- attend educational tracks for meeting planners and industry venues and vendors.

- network with others in the industry.
- participate in lunchtime table topics.
- check out green exhibitors.
- and much more!

For more information and other opportunities, please visit the [Green Meeting Industry Council's](#) website.



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